



Saint Paul Animal Control's

Wildcat Wednesdays

Part of the Homes for All Pets Feline Feral Friends Program

**Controlling, Managing, Reducing
or Eliminating Feral Cat
Populations Effectively,
Humanely and Safely with
Support from the Community.**

**To begin trapping feral cats on your property
call St. Paul Animal Control at (651) 266-1100.**

**To volunteer call Animal Ark
at (651) 772-8983, press 1 then 0.**

Organized and administered by Animal Ark, St. Paul Animal Control and the Homes For All Pets partners

What Are Feral Cats?

Feral cats are untamed, unsocialized offspring of domestic house cats, which, when allowed outside, can give birth under porches, in garages or any place they can find shelter. These kittens grow up with little or no human contact. As a result, they behave like wild animals.

Feral kittens cannot generally be tamed after the age of about 8 - 9 weeks. Therefore, trapping them and adopting them into homes is not possible.

The Problem of Feral Cats

It is estimated that there are between 300,000 and 1 million feral cats living in and around the Twin Cities metro area. These feisty felines displace and kill large numbers of native wildlife. Additionally, because of their astonishing birth rate, they contribute to our area's massive pet overpopulation problem. They also pose a potential public health risk, because feral cats can carry and transmit diseases that can affect people and their pets.

About Trap - Neuter - Return (TNR)

Not only is trap, neuter and return (TNR) a humane way to manage feral cat populations, it has been proven to be more effective at reducing or eliminating feral cat populations in the long-run. Each feral cat sterilized can prevent the birth of many thousands of kittens in the future.

How This Program Works

St. Paul residents noticing feral cats in their neighborhood can assist this program by following the steps outlined in this brochure. For additional information is available by contacting St. Paul Animal Control at (651) 266-1100.

Step 1 - Obtain Feral Cat Trap(s) from Animal Control

Specially constructed and labeled live traps are available at St. Paul Animal Control. A small, refundable deposit is required for each trap. This deposit is returned when traps are returned to Animal Control following the release of the cats.

Along with the traps, residents will receive detailed trapping instructions to help them through the process.

Step 2 - Notify Your Neighbors

To avoid accidentally trapping your neighbor's pet cats, it is important that they be notified of plans to trap feral cats in their area. A copy of a flier that can be left with your neighbors will be provided by Animal Control along with the trap(s).

Step 3 - Trap the Cat(s)

After following all of the instructions provided with the traps, trapping should take place Tuesday evening, and, if necessary, into Wednesday morning.

Step 4 - Bring Cat(s) in Trap(s) to Animal Control

Animal Control will be open to begin accepting cats between the hours of 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM Wednesday mornings. Cats must be brought to Animal Control secured in Animal Control labeled live traps.

Step 5 - Sterilize, Vaccinate and Ear Tip

Cats will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated for Rabies and marked so they can be easily identified as managed feral cats. These procedures will be performed and supervised by veterinarians working for Animal Ark. Surgeries will be performed in Animal Ark's Neuter Commuter, a mobile surgical hospital, that will be parked at Animal Control.

Step 6 - Return the Cat(s)

Between 3:00 and 5:00 PM Wednesday, Animal Control will be open for the pick up of the cats. Each cat will be provided with post-surgery care and release instructions.

Step 7 - Feed & Monitor the Cat(s)

To ensure new, unsterilized cats are not moving into the area, keep an eye out for unmarked cats requiring surgery.